

# Consultation Report

## FAO Expert Consultation

### Climate change guidelines for forest managers

#### Himalaya Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal

22 & 23 June 2011

#### **Introduction**

The critical role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation is widely recognized. Forests play a significant role in mitigation by acting as “sinks”, absorbing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it in biomass and soils. Forests are important for adaptation, helping to reduce continuing, sometimes dramatic, negative impacts on the natural resource base that sustains our livelihoods. Without direct management interventions, ecosystem health and resilience, productivity, biological diversity, and carbon storage are likely to decrease in many places due to climate change impacts. The inter-relationship between forests and climate therefore implies that a dramatic change to one will influence the other. In some situations this feedback is negative whereas in other cases it is positive.

Sustainable forest management is an essential foundation for forest-based adaptation and mitigation actions. Forest management decisions made now could affect forests many decades into the future. Thus it is important for managers to take account of how forests may respond to future climatic conditions.

FAO is developing guidelines to assist forest managers to respond to climate change challenges and opportunities at the forest management unit level. These guidelines will highlight adjustments that forest managers might consider making in the planning, implementation and monitoring phases of forest management to accommodate climate change considerations. It will also flag the possible changes to the policy, legal, economic and social environment driven by climate change responses that forest managers will need to take into consideration in forest planning and management.

To discuss guidelines and related issues, FAO convened an expert consultation on 22 and 23 June 2011 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The agenda is attached in Annex I.

#### **Purpose of consultation**

The purpose of the consultation was to gather expert advice on the need, content and process for developing the guidelines. The tasks were to: review background information and the results of a survey of forest managers; discuss the target audience, structure and contents of the guidelines; and agree on the process and timeline of preparation and finalization of the guidelines.

#### **Results**

The consultation was attended by 17 participants (see Annex II), representing most regions and with expertise covering various aspects of forest management.

#### ***Need, target audience and scope***

The experts agreed that the guidelines would be a useful product that would contribute to a better understanding of climate change impacts on forests and forests’ mitigation roles and on forest management options to address both adaptation and mitigation.

The experts stressed that the guidelines should be practical and relevant for managers of all forests, whether in the private or public sector or community forest users groups. The guide should be targeted at forest managers. A wide range of audiences could use them, including: heads of forest operations (operations managers), forestry extension services; forestry, natural resource management and community and indigenous rights NGOs, community forestry user groups, forest owners & forest owners federations, forest administrators (production, multi-purpose, protection, NWFPs), foresters

within national departments of forests, national processes/intermediaries which simplify the document for specific regions, certifiers, associations of forestry professionals that provide assistance to forest owners, professional forest management companies and consulting foresters.

It was also agreed that the guidelines must be applicable to all types of forests - boreal, temperate, tropical, natural and planted - managed for all objectives - production, protection, conservation and multi-purpose benefits.

### ***Title, structure & content***

*Options for forest managers to address climate change* was proposed as a working title for the document and a draft outline was prepared and agreed upon (see Annex III). The outline consisted of the following:

- Introduction – *describing the general need for the guidelines and how the document is organized*
- Impacts of climate change and variability on forests– *describing the way the climate is changing.*
- General responses to climate change – *describing adaptation and mitigation.*
- Climate change and possible management responses – *describing the major impacts/risks of climate change on forests, good management practices to respond to the impacts/risks and possible challenges and opportunities.*
- Monitoring – describes the actions required and challenges managers face/will face in monitoring variability, impacts and forest responses to climate change as well as the associated costs.
- Additional information – provides links to additional sources of information on related issues e.g. funding options, costs benefit analysis and principles of sustainable land management.
- Conclusions

Experts agreed that the document length should ideally be within 20 – 40 pages and as practical and user friendly as possible.

### **Products**

The experts recommended that there be three products, as follows:

- 1) Brochure/executive summary
- 2) Guidelines themselves
- 3) Companion document to the guidelines building on the background document prepared for the workshop and including technical detail on climate change and forests

### **Next steps**

The lead consultant was tasked with further developing the outline after which, it would be circulated to the experts for comments and agreement. Following this the lead consultant would develop the first draft of the guidelines which will be discussed at the second expert consultation to be held from 9 - 10 November in Peru. At the same time, the lead consultant and the author of the background document would work to bring the latter in line with the structure of the guidelines so that it can be an effective companion document. The draft guidelines would then be finalized by the end of January 2012. This will be followed by the validation of the guidelines in several selected countries. A methodology for validation will be developed to standardize the process which could take the form of one-day workshops. Experts expressed interest in widening the validation process beyond the three pre-selected countries. For more information on the timeline please see Annex IV.

## ANNEX I AGENDA



### FAO Expert Consultation



### Climate change guidelines for forest managers Himalaya Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal 22 & 23 June 2011

#### Agenda

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#### Wednesday, 22 June 2011

<b>8:30-09:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
09:00-09:30	Welcoming remarks - <i>Ms. Bui Thi Lan, FAO Representative, Nepal</i> Introduction of participants Introduction to the initiative and consultation – <i>Susan Braatz, FAO</i>
09:30-10:30	Climate change challenges for forest management – <i>Bas Louman, CATIE</i> Results from the survey – <i>Simmons Rose, FAO</i> Discussion
	<b>Coffee break (30 min)</b>
11:00-12:30	Plenary discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• need and usefulness of the guidelines</li><li>• existing, complementary and/or similar tools</li><li>• definition of purpose, audience, scope</li></ul> Wrap up
	<b>Lunch break (1 hour)</b>
13:30 – 15:00	Plenary discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• structure &amp; outline of the guide</li></ul>
	<b>Coffee break (30 min)</b>
15:30 – 16:00	Introduction to working group session
16:00-17:30	Working group session I: <i>Discussion on content of sections of the guidelines</i>
17:30 – 18:00	Wrap up
19:00	<b>Cocktail reception</b>

**Thursday, 23 June 2011**

09:00-09:30 Brief reports from groups  
09:30- 12:00 Working group session II: *Continued discussion on content of sections of the guidelines*

**Lunch break** (1 hour)

13:00 – 14:00 Report on working group session & discussions  
14:00 – 15:00 Discussion of next steps

**Coffee break** (30 min)

15:30 – 16:30 Discussion of next steps  
16:30 – 17:00 Wrap up & final remarks

## ANNEX II LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Contact info.</b>
1.	ITTO	Mr. Hwan Ok Ma	Projects Manager Reforestation and Forest Management Division	ma@itto.int Skype: hwan21	International Organizations Center, 5th Fl., 1-1-1 Minato-Mirai, Nishi-Ku, Yokohama 220- 0012, Japan
2.	EFI	Mr. Bernhard Wolfslehner	Head of Office Lead Work Area 3	bernhard.wolfslehner@efi.int	Feistmantelstr. 4 A-1180 Vienna
3.	Union of Foresters of Southern Europe	Ms. Rosário Alves	Directora Executiva Forestis - Associação Florestal de Portugal	r.alves@forestis.pt	Rua de Santa Catarina nº753 4000 - 454 Porto
4.	CIFOR – Central Africa	Mr Richard Eba- Atyi	Regional Coordinator, Central Africa (Cameroon)	r.atyi@cgiar.org	c/o IITA Humid Forest Ecoregional Center B.P. 2008, Yaoundé, Cameroon
5.	University of Florida	Mr. Francis Putz		fep@ufl.edu Skype: feputz	University of Florida 209 Carr Hall, PO Box 118526 University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32611-8526
6.	CATIE	Bas Louman	Head, Climate Change Programme	blouman@catie.ac.cr Skype: bastiaan.louman	CATIE 7170 Cartago, Turrialba, 30501 Costa Rica
7.	CEPF	Marta Gaworska	Acting Secretary General Liaison Office Brussels	marta.gaworska@cepf-eu.org	European Forestry House Rue du Luxembourg 66 B-1000 Bruxelles
8.	FUNDECOR	German Obando- Vargas	Head of Science and Technology	gobando@fundecortechnology.org	Pavas, Bulevard Rohrmoser 100 m Norte, 125 m Este de Librería Internacional San José, Costa Rica
9.	ICRAF	Rodel Lasco	Philippines Country Coordinator	r.lasco@cgiar.org rdlasco@yahoo.com	2nd Fl., Khush Hall Bldg. International Rice Research Institute Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines PO Box 35024, UPLB, College, Laguna 4031, Philippines
10.	IUCN Asia	Peter Neil	Regional Forest Programme Coordinator & Climate Change Focal Point	peter.neil@iucn.org'	IUCN Asia Regional Office 63, Soi Phromphong, Sukhumvit 39 10110 Wattana, Bangkok Thailand

11.	Trade Advisory Group	Barney Chan	Director eSFM Tropics	barney.chan@gmail.com	295, Lrg 14 Jln Kedandi Kuching, Sarawak Malaysia
12.	Ministry of Forestry & Soil Conservation - Nepal	Resham Bahadur Dangi	Deputy Director General Chief, Community Forestry Division	reshamdangi@hotmail.com	Department of Forests (DoF) Babarmahal, Kathmandu Nepal
13.	FAO-RAP	Jeremy Broadhead		jeremy.broadhead@fao.org	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Maliwan Mansion Phra Atit Road Bangkok 10200, Thailand
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15.	Brazilian Forest Service	Marcelo Arguelles	Executive Manager	marcelo.arguelles@florestal.gov.br	Brazilian Forest Service SCEN, Trecho 2, Bl. H 70818-900 Brasília, Brazil
16.	FAO	Susan Braatz	Senior Officer Forests and Climate Change	Susan.Braatz@fao.org	Forestry Department - FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, ITALY
17.	FAO	Simmone Rose	Forestry Officer Climate Change and Bioenergy	Simmone.Rose@fao.org Skype:simmoner	Forestry Department - FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, ITALY

## ANNEX III DRAFT OUTLINE

### ***Section 1: Why should I care?***

Climate change is a driver of change, both negative and positive, through:

- biophysical impacts on forest
- socio-economic changes (including changes in markets for forest products)
- policy & regulatory responses

Climate change is creating new opportunities for *among others* financing, capacity-building, technology transfer.

### ***Section 2: How is the climate changing?***

Explain how climate change/climate variability affects many characteristics of the forest ecosystem and ecosystem services, which in turn result in impacts on or risks to the forest or forest dependent people that forest managers respond to. This could be illustrated with an example(s).

### ***Section 3: General responses to climate change***

General types of responses are:

- Adaptation
- Mitigation

### ***Section 4: How can I respond to climate change?***

Note in this section that:

- attribution of changes in the forest to climate change vs other drivers of change is difficult. While some changes are unlikely to be due solely to climate change, the application of good practices to address impacts or risks of climate change will help address the impacts of other drivers of degradation and deforestation.

#### ***Section 4a - Adaptation***

The section should take the manager through the following steps:

- identification of the impact or risk (direction, degree and economic implications)
- vulnerability and risk assessment
- identification of good practices to apply (e.g. RIL, spp selection) in management, as appropriate to the scale/intensity of the operations
- cost/benefit analysis of implementing the management changes
- (monitoring needs)
- (capacity strengthening needs)

These steps would be indicated for:

- Productivity
- Extreme weather
- Water
- Fires
- Pests
- Biodiversity
- Policy changes
- Markets
- Social changes

#### ***Section 4b – Mitigation***

Describe the three main mitigation options

- Conserving forest carbon stocks
- Expanding C-stocks

- Substitution of fossil fuels with less C-intensive fuels in forest operations

For each, the following steps would be described:

- Identification of opportunities
- Good practices
- Cost/benefit analysis
- C-market opportunities
- Access to markets
- Gap analysis of local capacities
- Monitoring

***Section 5 What monitoring actions are required?***

- Forests
- Funding opportunities
- (Capacity)
- Transfer of technologies
- Policy and legal changes
- Market changes

***Section 6 Additional Sources of Information***

***Section 7 Conclusions***



## ANNEX IV – NEXT STEPS

### Workplan

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Preparation of outline	<b>June - July 2011</b>	Lead author
Review of outline	<b>July 2011</b>	Experts
Finalization of outline	<b>July 2011</b>	Lead author
Preparation of first draft	<b>July - October 2011</b>	Lead author
Review of first draft	<b>November 2011</b>	Experts
Second expert consultation	<b>November 2011</b>	All
Finalization of guide	<b>January 2012</b>	Lead author
Validation of guide	<b>June 2012</b>	FAO HQ
Revision of guide if required & printing	<b>October 2012</b>	Lead author + FAO